

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

February 14, 2011

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Bill Brown, Ted Mendoza, David Parkhurst, Dave Rollo, George Huntington, Caleb Steiner

Regrets: Melissa Clark, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

*Council legislation changing chicken regulation making it so that neighbors don't need permission to have chickens While permits are not required to slaughter chickens on residents' own property, it is still advised that they check with the board of health to ensure that they have proper facilities to conduct the slaughtering process.

*IU Sustainability Department has moved to 704 E. 10th St. The goal for the new location is to be a demonstration house for zero net energy use. The location has LED lighting, geothermal heating and cooling, and solar panels.

*USGBC regional conference, Greening the Heartland, is still coming on May 16-18. Volunteers needed.

*MLK Day Weatherization Event is Jan. 16. Volunteer team leaders needed. Lunch is provided. Dress appropriately.

*IU Film series on food issues, Jan. 21

*Local Growers Guild meeting, Jan. 21

* Slow Food meeting, Jan. 22

*Terrible, Horrible No-Good Very Bad Bike Ride. Counting on bad weather, Feb. 18

*eWaste collection at Sanitation, 9-1 pm, Feb. 4

Approval of Minutes:

The December meeting's minutes were approved unanimously

Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present for comment.

Presentation on the Platinum Bike Task Force Report

Scott Robinson represented the Platinum Bike Task Force from the Planning Department. The task force had a year to layout a plan for getting a Platinum (the highest rank available) ranking from the League of American Bicyclists. A Bike Summit was held last year, and suggestions were solicited by community members.

The report was approved by the City Council in fall 2011. The report was written with "interested but concerned" bike riders as a target audience since this population shows the greatest potential for growth in ridership. The report is titled, "Breaking Away" in an attempt to reach out to a broad audience. Reasons for encouraging biking in Bloomington include: environmental harmony, economic resiliency, health, and quality of life. The report focuses on the 5 E's that the League using to measure a community's bike friendliness: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation. Within each category of the report, there are 5 recommendations for Bloomington. All together, 50 actions were proposed.

The goal is to reach Platinum status by 2016. Bloomington reached the Silver level in 2010, and the target is to be certified at the Gold level in 2014.

- Cynthia asked if there are any specific metrics the committee used to approach this goal. Scott clarified that there aren't specific measures but the bike summit was helpful. There are volunteers who conduct regular bike counts, but we still need better measures.
- Two consulting firms have been hired to put together a feasibility study of adding bike infrastructure and other ways of increasing bike ridership. Bloomington has taken advantage of most of the low-hanging fruit, and so the consultants will look for new routes and infrastructure like bike boulevards. They will also be coming to educate the public on biking. Bill mentioned that IU has hired another consultant to conduct a traffic demand study, it may make sense to have the City's consultants collaborate with IU's consultants. Scott will explore this. There's a lot of potential to work with students. Ultimately, the goal is to get people to ride more even if they're only riding once a month.
- The task force was officially disbanded once the report was accepted, but there may be a committee established to continue the work of the task force. David Rollo asked if BCOS could be advocates for new side paths. Scott wasn't sure of when these processes would be best brought up, but he said there's potential. Jacqui made the comment that there is a

perception that biking is only for athletes or the elite. We could advocate for the need for active transportation as being an important part of the whole transportation system in Bloomington and not just as an extra side benefit. How can BCOS support this effort? The new committee appreciates any guidance from BCOS. Chris asked if there would be new funding resources to actually achieve the goal. Scott said that the goal is more of a catalyst to promote infrastructure improvements. The goal is not to consider bike funding as "extra," but rather as an integral part of the community's transportation investment. George asked if a bike summit would be repeated. Scott assured BCOS that there would be another one. An IU bike expo in the Fall was suggested by Bill.

Report from the Chair:

BCOS made assignments for specific members to check into possible projects for the Spring quarter as opposed to having individual committees sponsoring their own activities. Ted is working on a brief ad for the radio. Caleb is working with SIREN to put together information on renewable energy installations and Duke Energy to find new ways of metering homes. Cynthia is working with Earth Care to get local churches involved with a "Task of the Month" program. Currently, over 100 churches are involved. It would be nice to have a bike activity for BCOS to plan for this year given the recent adoption of the Platinum Bike Task Force Report.

A motion was made and passed to write a statement requesting that more funds be allocated for bike transit in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TASK ACTION: Maggie will write the statement based on a certain percentage of transportation funds going towards biking. Maggie will also contact Andy with planning to collaborate.

Jacqui mentioned that there are still more room for homes to be visited for the MLK Day weatherization event. There is a need for more volunteers to be team leaders.

Committee Report:

Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC): Will meet next week

STAR Committee: Andrew Rector will be back this semester. The first STAR meeting will be this Thursday. The committee needs a new liaison from the Environmental Commission. We could also use more BCOS members. Waste/Recycling and Food will be major focuses for the committee this year. Housing and Transportation are areas that are being fleshed out currently.

Leadership Committee: BCOS currently has three vacancies and possibly will have four soon, so the Leadership Committee needs to discuss what types of new members might be desirable. Possible focus areas include social equity, food, transportation, sustainable business, and/or waste. Two of the vacancies are from the Council.

Jacqui, Maggie, David Rollo, and Cynthia will meet to discuss new appointments soon. If BCOS members have additional thoughts on potential new members let Jacqui know.

No other committees were represented.

ACTION: Jacqui, David Rollo, Cynthia, and Maggie will meet to discuss potential new BCOS/STAR members.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.